

**June.**—Owing to the severity of the surveying season, and depredations on the part of the Indians, but little has been done in the northwestern part of the State. But nine hundred and eighteen miles of subdivisions and unclaimed have been reported.

**Minnesota.**—The new surveying district of Minnesota. Field operations for the establishment of the principal lines and subdivisions of the public surveys have been commenced in the northeast district on Lake Superior, and in the country south of the northwest district, north of Iowa, to the extent of four thousand and four hundred miles. But, owing to the limited time within which operations have been prosecuted from 23d May last, when the opening of the office of surveyor general took place, no returns of surveys have yet been received at this office from this new surveying district.

**Washington and Iowa.**—The summary of field work presented by the surveyor general for the surveying district of Washington and Iowa, of which the Territory of Iowa was a part prior to the act of 3d March, 1857, has been very satisfactory, embracing the establishment of guide meridians and standard parallels, township and subdivision lines, to the extent of seven thousand and twenty miles. Such portion of the archives of this district pertaining to the Minnesota surveys have been turned over to the surveyor general at St. Paul.

**Arkansas.**—The surveys ordered in this State are now nearly completed, and the surveyor general is engaged in preparing the land records, with a view to the transfer of them to the State authorities upon the closing of this office, which may take place during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859, should no further surveys be found indispensable.

**Louisiana.**—The surveying operations of this State are nearly complete. The work now consists principally of surveys of private claims, and of lands which have been supposed to be overthrown, but now found to be agricultural.

**Idaho.**—In consequence of the Indian hostilities no surveys have been carried on. Should the Indians be removed to the West, the suspended contracts could be completed by the expiration of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859.

**New Mexico.**—The surveys have been extended to a very limited extent, owing to the Indian hostilities and have been confined chiefly to the region known as the "Valley" lying northwest of Santa Fe, and west of the Rio Grande.

No surveys have been made of "private land claims" in New Mexico, none having been yet confirmed by Congress. The surveyor general recommends that a board of commissioners be appointed for the adjustment of claims, and that the period be limited for the presentation of claims. A summary, prompt, and final adjudication of Spanish and Mexican claims in the Territory is of great importance; not only to settle titles, but enable the department to separate private property from the public lands, so that the latter may be disposed of without danger of conflict.

**Forty-eight "donation" claims**, under the provisions of the act of 22d July, 1854, have been filed in the surveyor general's office since his last annual report, eleven of which are recommended for recognition, the period of four years' settlement having expired.

Twenty-six "yearly" claims have been filed since his last annual report, making fifty-seven since the opening of his office at Santa Fe, New Mexico, of which sixteen are recommended by the surveyor general.

The extensive discoveries of the precious metals in New Mexico suggests the propriety, in legislating for the disposal of the public lands in this Territory, to provide that what may be found to be strictly mineral lands from general sales or locations.

**Kansas.**—The surveys have been prosecuted with energy, returns having been made to the extent of seven thousand miles.

**Nevada.**—Owing to the late period at which the sixth principal meridian was established, the extent of the surveys is not so great as was expected; yet seven thousand miles of field-work have been returned, and it is expected that the surveys east of the sixth principal meridian will be closed by the 30th June, 1859.

**Utah.**—The surveys of the public lands had rapidly progressed before the surveyor general abandoned his post, owing to reported hostilities on the part of the Mormon authorities at Salt Lake City.

This happened early last spring, since which time we have the advice of the disaffected clerk in the surveyor general's office, but are uninformed as to the safety of the archives of that office.

Representations have been made unfavorable to the surveys which have been executed in that Territory, but we have no means of judging of the correctness of these statements without actual examination on the ground.

The extent of the surveys, since the beginning of the operations in Utah, exhibits a sphere of field-work embracing 2,000,000 acres, and the work executed at a cost of \$90,000.

**California.**—The surveying operations have been pushed forward during the last year to a degree beyond the anticipation of this office, the surveys, over and above the appropriations, liabilities incurred by the late surveyor general on that score having reached an indebtedness of upwards of \$220,000 to the United States deputy. These accounts for surveys under contracts with the surveyor general have been certified by the latter, and could not be paid for the want of funds applicable to the same.

With a view to provide means as early as possible to liquidate that indebtedness, I have, by your direction, ascertained the amount, and submitted a deficiency estimate, so that speedy appropriation may be obtained.

The summary of the field operations in California since the commencement of the service in 1851 to the present time consists of 82,000 miles of lineal surveys, embracing an area of upwards of 20,000,000 acres, at the aggregate expense of more than \$1,000,000; of which there were surveyed during the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1857, 20,000 miles—equal to 9,000,000 acres.

**Oregon.**—The surveys of the public lands and donation claims have been to such an extent that it is expected the portion of the Territory between the Cascade mountains and the Pacific ocean will be completed by the operations of another year. The extension by law of the surveying system east of the Cascades is recommended.

**Washington Territory.**—Owing to hostilities of the Indians, the remoteness of the surveying region, sparseness of settlements, and the arduous and perilous nature of the service in that district, but limited progress in surveying has been made during the past year; yet the duties devolved upon the surveyor general at Olympia have required all his attention.

That officer renews the recommendation of increase in mileage to deputy surveyors to indemnify them for the obstacles encountered in the density of timber, high wages, and cost of transportation of supplies.

These facts considered, and in view of the remoteness of this surveying district from commercial communities, his recommendation is concurred in, with the suggestion of increase also in his compensation.

**Statement of the surveying operations of the public lands during the year ending September 30, 1857.**

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States or Territories.	Quantities, the plats of surveys of which have been returned to the General Land Office.		Estimated quantities, the plats of which have not been returned, as expected to be returned in 1858.	
	Resurveyed.	Original surveys.		
	Miles.	Acres.		
Ohio				
Indiana				
Michigan	4,005 12 79	236 87		
Illinois	338 61 57	240 17		
Wisconsin		1,106,066 05	574,000	
Iowa		234,582 67	820,000	
Minnesota	120 41 69	1,374,102 95	1,452,000	
Missouri		46,698 00	100,000	
Arkansas	2,736 67 49			
Louisiana	17 62 49	17,647 00		
Mississippi				
Alabama				
Florida		70,225 00	1,060,000	
California		9,134,098 00	2,500,000	
Oregon Territory		1,374,102 95	1,700,000	
Washington Territory		137,083 29	600,000	
Kansas Territory		5,645,090 11	574,000	
Nebraska Territory		2,820,962 85	2,500,000	
New Mexico Territory.		114,329 73		
Utah Territory		20,816 42		
	9,104 69 90	1,205,854 00	15,400,000	